



MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

INFECTION CONTROL – CARE OF CONTAMINATED ARTICLES

Effective Date: February 24, 2014

Policy #: IC-07

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- I. PURPOSE:** To identify methods for handling clothing and linen contaminated with bloodborne pathogens, other disease causing organisms, or parasites.
- II. POLICY:** Contaminated personal articles and linen will be decontaminated before they are returned to the patient or to the unit.
- III. DEFINITIONS:** None
- IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**
 - A. Nursing Staff – In cases of contaminated clothing, nursing staff are responsible for care of patient clothing items.
 - B. Housekeeping Manager is responsible for collection and decontamination of non-washable contaminated or infested articles.
- V. PROCEDURE:**
 - A. Laundry contaminated with blood and body fluids:
 - 1. Any employee handling contaminated laundry will observe Standard Precautions; wearing protective gloves and a protective gown.
 - 2. Contaminated linen will be bagged separately from personal items using the same procedure as for personal items (see #3 below).
 - 3. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. First sort personal laundry items into washable and non-washable piles. Care will be taken to separate items requiring dry cleaning (e.g., a wool sweater or leather coat).
 - b. Wipe non-washable items such as restraint belts, leather shoes, belts and wallets with approved disinfectant solution.
 - c. Sort washable items into light and darks which will be kept separate throughout the laundry process.

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- d. Make a duplicate itemized list of all patient's personal contaminated items. Items on the lists should match the items in each bag.
 - e. First, place separated washable articles in clear, plastic, dissolvable bag. (Items bagged together will be disinfected together regardless of the consequences.)
 - f. Then, place dissolvable bag into a clear plastic bag. **Do not overfill plastic bags.**
 - g. Attach one copy of the itemized list to the corresponding bag of laundry and put the other copy in the ward file.
 - h. Place the clear-bagged contaminated laundry in the clothing receptacle in the soiled laundry room on each unit.
 - i. Posey Velcro Restraints are designed to be washed under CDC recommendations for linen soiled with blood or bodily fluids, refer to attachment.
 4. Laundry personnel remove the itemized list and mark the clear bag "contaminated" and indicate the unit of origin.
 5. Contaminated linen and washable personal laundry will be sent to the laundry service at Montana State Prison.
- B. Non-washable items contaminated with lice or other parasites
 1. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Make a duplicate itemized list of infested non-washable items and put one copy in the ward file.
 - b. Double red bag infested non-washable items and attach one copy of the itemized list.
 - c. Infested non-washable items include: restraint belts, wallets, leather belts, and shoes.
 - d. Send the infested items to the Housekeeping Manager
 - e. Housekeeping Manager or designee will spray the inside of the bag(s) and contaminated articles with the appropriate decontaminate. The bag and contents must be left for 24 hours, then will be emptied and returned to the unit.
- C. Contaminated disposable items
 1. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Place disposable contaminated items in a red bag
 - b. Dispose of red bag in the contaminated receptacle in the soiled laundry room on each unit.

VI. REFERENCES: None

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- VII. COLLABORATED WITH:** Infection Preventionist, Housekeeping Manager
- VIII. RESCISSIONS:** #IC-07, Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles dated May 18, 2010; #IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated October 30, 2006; #IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated December 18, 2002; Policy # IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated February 14, 2000; #IC-12-03, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated March 7, 1995.
- IX. DISTRIBUTION:** All hospital policy manuals.
- X. ANNUAL REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION:** This policy is subject to annual review and authorization for use by either the Administrator or the Medical Director with written documentation of the review (Attachment B) per M.C.A. § 307-106-330.
- XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Infection Preventionist
- XII. ATTACHMENTS:** [Posey Velcro Restraints Laundering Instructions](#)

_____/____/____
John W. Glueckert Date
Superintendent

_____/____/____
Thomas Gray, MD Date
Medical Director



Lower temperature washing and drying cycle for non-contaminated linen will prolong product life.

The "hook" of hook and loop closure material has a tendency to collect lint after repeated use and/or laundering, reducing the grip strength of the hook and loop. Test for secure hold before each use. Discard if it does not hold securely. Occasionally go over the "hook" with a stiff brush to remove lint. Fastening the "hook" to the "loop" during laundering will also help to prevent lint buildup.

DO NOT PUT STAINLESS STEEL BUCKLES THROUGH A WATER EXTRACTOR! It crushes the buckle. For maximum life, launder in a laundry bag.